

L. Nelson
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Manoocher Birang, et al. Art Unit : Unknown
 Serial No. : Unknown Examiner : Unknown
 Filed : May 22, 2001
 Title : METHOD OF FORMING A TRANSPARENT WINDOW IN A POLISHING
 PAD

Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

In the specification:

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--This application is a continuation of pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/519,156, filed March 6, 2000, ^{is now U.S. 6,280,290} which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/258,504, filed February 26, 1999, issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,045,439, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/689,930, filed August 16, 1996, issued as U.S. Patent No. 5,893,796, which is continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/605,769, filed February 22, 1996, issued as U.S. Patent No. 5,964,643, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/413,982, filed March 28, 1995, abandoned.--

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraphs:

--Referring to FIGS. 3E and 3F, the polishing pad 18 may be assembled as follows. The two-level plug 600 is machined or molded from a solid piece of polyurethane. An aperture 612 is cut into a polishing pad 18. Alternately, the polishing pad 18 may be integrally molded with the aperture 612. The aperture 612 includes two sections. The first section of the aperture may

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